

JP 11/15/96

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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19335 THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996 AV 9, 5756 RABIA YAWWAL TO TEL AV IS 50 (Eilat NIS 3.30)

Acre woman held in London bombings

AN Israeli Arab woman has been detained on suspicion of involvement in the 1994 bombings in London of the Israeli Embassy and Jewish community center, Balfour House.

Nineteen people were injured in the bombings at the two sites, which took place within 13 hours of each other, at the end of July two years ago.

The suspect, a native of Acre, was detained a few days ago when she returned home from abroad for a family visit. The Magistrate's Court in Acre yesterday permitted publication of the news after she was remanded for a further 10 days but her identity was not made public.

Although police charged her with causing grave harm to state security, the woman denied any involvement in the incidents in which two car bombs went off, Balfour House is the site of the Jewish Agency offices in London as well as local Jewish institutions and a museum. Three Palestinians are currently on trial in the British capital for the bombings.

Despite requests from the media, Magistrate Ehud Globinsky barred the name of the woman from publication. But he said, after examining the files, that the grave allegations against the suspect made it necessary to keep her in custody until the end of next week.

"You can see from the smile on my face, that I am not worried about the charges against me," the woman told reporters. (Itim)



Foreign Minister David Levy (right) and his French counterpart, Herve de Charette, stroll through the grounds of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday. (Yitzhak Elhanan)

Netanyahu: I'm disappointed with Arafat letter

THE letter Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat sent Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night, declaring that the Palestinian National Council had canceled its covenant, is identical to the letter he sent to then-prime minister Shimon Peres in May.

Netanyahu is deeply disappointed, his spokesman Shai Bazak said. "This is not what the government intended when it demanded the Palestinian Covenant be canceled," he noted.

Netanyahu had asked Arafat for a letter listing the specific articles of the charter which had been annulled.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy said yesterday he is ready to meet his Syrian counterpart any place, any time, to try to break the stalemate in the peace process.

"If the Syrian foreign minister is interested and peace is important to his country ... I am ready to meet him in any place and at any time," Levy told reporters.

He spoke after meeting French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who is on a peace mission.

"I will work personally very hard to make possible the renewal of the discussions between Israel and Syria," de Charette stated at their joint news conference.

Later, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accepted an invitation from de Charette to visit Paris. The two stressed the good ties

between their countries and noted the need to move the peace process forward.

US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, also on a peace tour, met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara on Tuesday and was due to meet President Hafez Assad before flying to Israel later today.

On Tuesday, Levy gave Palestinian President Yasser Arafat a message to be delivered to Damascus urging resumption of talks, a PLO official said. Arafat will visit Damascus today.

"The path which has been tried in the direction of peace until now has not produced anything," Levy said of the negotiations with Syria.

De Charette said he and Levy discussed the necessity of finding ways to pursue peace. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said later that Levy, too, would soon visit Paris.

Meanwhile Syria has urged the US to put pressure on Israel to accept withdrawal from the Golan Heights as Ross prepared to see Assad.

Syria's official press said that Ross is planning to assure regional leaders that the US is still committed to the peace process principles agreed on in 1991.

"Washington, which explored the positions of Netanyahu and sent its envoy to the region in an attempt to assure [the Arabs] of the US commitment to the peace

process ... is required more than any time before to be decisive in dealing with the process and to let Netanyahu accept UN resolutions," *Al-Thawra* said.

The paper added: "If the international community, especially the US, does not face Netanyahu's deformed logic and his sabotage policy, then the peace process will end up with complete failure."

It demanded that the international community pressure Israel to accept that "aggressive force" could not make peace and that peace could be achieved only through the land-for-peace formula.

"We do not want the US administration, especially at this stage, to bear more than it can bear ... But as peace talks are facing real danger, we believe it is the responsibility of a superpower to preserve the principles of the peace process to avoid its collapse," the daily said.

Meanwhile, Levy has rebuffed criticism from certain Likud circles over his meeting with Arafat. "I did what needed to be done," Levy told de Charette. "Anyone who has an alternative [to meeting with the PA] can present it."

Former premier Yitzhak Shamir also added his voice to those of the critics. "The previous government got Israel into the mire. Whoever touches mud gets dirty," Shamir said.

He added that, if he were prime minister now, such a meeting could not have taken place, because Arafat would no longer exist in the international arena.

Bond market stabilizes after central bank's intervention

THE bond market stabilized yesterday following the Bank of Israel's Tuesday announcement that it will intervene as much as necessary to stop the decline in government bonds.

A day after the bank implemented the first stage of its "safety net" program by purchasing of NIS 250 million in government bonds, trading started with purchase orders of NIS 75m, and sell orders of NIS 68m, a precipitous decrease from the previous two days' sell orders of NIS 389m and NIS 475m. At the end of trading, the index-linked bonds were mixed to slightly higher, while dollar-linked bonds were mixed.

Meanwhile, real estate analysts yesterday warned that the deterioration of the capital market is likely to have severe consequences for the already weak real estate market.

Moshe Hirsh, an owner of Gemolav real estate, said the slump in stock prices will lead to a slowdown in the housing market, which already suffers from a shortage of financing. Hirsh said the wave of provident fund withdrawals, which reach about NIS 100m a day, are forcing the fund managers to turn their assets into liquid assets to meet redemption payments. As a result, the funds are not investing in real estate, in which the funds had invested about NIS 300m a year over the last few years.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

"If the wave of redemptions continues and the crisis on the stock exchange does not end, a crisis on the capital market will be triggered, which will worsen with time," Hirsh said.

He said real estate developers, contractors and potential buyers are expected to encounter increased hardships in financing transactions, since the crisis on the capital market is expected to drastically reduce mortgage banks ability to provide financial coverage.

In recent months, the Bank of Israel has repeatedly warned the banks of the danger of overexposing themselves in the construction sector. As a result, many banks have imposed stricter lending conditions and significantly reduced the money available to real estate projects.

"Very few developers will be able to continue operate once the cost of capital goes up to 7%-8% (linked to the index), and the banks give relatively little financial coverage compared with the size of the project," Hirsh said.

Haim Kaufman, chairman of real estate agents, urged potential buyers to complete transactions as soon as possible. He based his recommendation on the government's plans to cut or cancel the tax exemption on the sale of residential property, the plunge of

the stock market, which has led to a significant increase in mortgage rates, and the shortage of new apartments resulting from a lack of construction workers.

In recent weeks mortgage banks have raised interest on mortgages by about 1%, a new high, due to the situation of the capital market. Bank Mishkan has raised the interest on 20-year loans to 6.7% and Tefahot to 6.5%. Leumi and Discount are expected to raise their rates in the next few days.

In a letter to Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Tax Commissioner Doron Levy, Kaufman yesterday urged the government not to cancel or cut the tax exemptions on real estate. Currently, home owners are exempt from tax on rental income from residential property and on the sale of more than one property within a four-year period.

"The proposal to change the existing exemption from tax on the sale of residential apartments will lead to a sharp rise in the price of apartments," Kaufman said.

He also said the end of the exemption is likely to scare off foreign investors.

"The annual dollar yield from renting out apartments is very borderline and even a small drop, resulting from taxation or any other factor, is likely to change foreign investors decisions to invest here," he said.

Drug feud leads to death of boy, 13

A FEUD between rival drug-dealing clans in Lod led to the death of a 13-year-old boy late Tuesday night.

Shortly after midnight, police received an anonymous tip on a shooting in the town's Neveh Yerek section. The initial investigation revealed that a man fired into a crowd. He apparently was after a member of a rival drug clan, but he hit Fares Abu Glein, 13, as well as a two-year-old girl and a woman. Abu Glein later died of his wounds. The girl was seriously wounded, and the woman was hit in the leg. A suspect was arrested later that night.

Yesterday, the police beefed up its presence in Neveh Yerek to prevent any possible disturbances. (Itim)

New recruits bid adieu to families as August draft begins

THE annual summer draft into IDF field units began this week, but army commanders say they can do without the growing parental involvement in their children's service.

For the next three weeks, hundreds of mothers and fathers, kid brothers, and girlfriends throughout the country will escort young men, the majority of whom were born after the 1978 Camp David peace accords were signed, to induction centers to begin their three years of service.

"This is heart-wrenching," said Elisha Kessner, of Kochav Yair. "I tried to tell my folks not to come, but they wouldn't hear of it."

Zion and Paula Aviv held their youngest son Yigal join the other young men. "We are Zionists and we are happy that our son will be able to serve his nation. I only wish

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

we could have gone through this too," said Zion, who immigrated from France 20 years ago.

One last peck from dad, a final hug from mom, and a long, long parting kiss from those lucky enough to be escorted by their girlfriends, and then on the bus.

In the background someone plays a tape of Shlomo Artzi singing: "July-August heat was very heavy ... youth is beautiful, the summer never ends."

The annual August draft has begun.

"Paratroopers, only the paratroopers," says Ilan from Holon. "Forget it, only Nahal for us," says a group of hesder yeshiva boys from Ma'aleh Gilboa. "I want to be commando," says an 18-year-old from Herzliya.

They spoke of duty, of patriotism and of the desire to prove themselves in the army that they have been taught to honor. None mentioned the possibility of engaging in a bloody firefight in Lebanon, or worse, being wiped out in the Jordan Valley without even firing a shot.

Four out of five of those inducted into field units volunteered to do so,

to the conclusion that it's not good. So we simply show them that this is an army which understands and solves problems, and that there is someone to talk to. We build them, but we listen too," said Sgt. Rodi, preparing to take hold of his platoon of recruits.

Forget screaming drill sergeants and the shaving of heads by passionless army barbers. Sergeants calmly and quietly instructed the conscripts to move aside, step forward, and wait in line. Nearly all recruits arrived with their mops cropped by kinder, gentler moms and girlfriends.

"You think I'm going to let those gorillas clip me? No way," said Shimran Dagan, his crewcut glistening with perspiration as he waited in line for an injection.

After getting their teeth x-rayed, fingers blackened with ink, arms stuck with needles, and eyes temporarily blinded by camera flashes, the recruits move on the supply shed, where they shed their civvies for olive-green.

Everything seems to come in size "too" - too big or too small. A lieutenant passes among them explaining how to lace their boots or tuck

Boutros-Ghali seeks UNIFIL extension

**MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK**

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, noting the "serious escalation of hostilities in April," has recommended that UNIFIL's mandate be renewed for six months, until January 31.

In a report to the Security Council yesterday, Boutros-Ghali said that UNIFIL troops remain in a "difficult and dangerous situation," but they offer some protection to the civilian

population of south Lebanon. UNIFIL's current mandate expires next Wednesday.

"In making this recommendation, I have especially in mind UNIFIL's role in shielding the civilian population from the worst effects of the violence," Boutros-Ghali wrote. "The

force's work in this regard during the April escalation has underscored the importance of this function."

He was referring to Operation Grapes of Wrath, particularly the shelling of the UN post at Kana last April 18, in which some 100 civilians died. Israel said the shelling was accidental, but UN investigators said this was "unlikely."

Ronald Lauder replaces Weiss on restitution panel

**MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK**

head of the Jewish Agency: Ruben Baraja, the one-time head of the Jewish community of Argentina; and Weiss. At the time, it was said that Weiss, then-speaker of the Knesset, had been selected because he was a Holocaust survivor, not as a political appointee.

Lauder, a former ambassador to Austria, was virtually inseparable from Binyamin Netanyahu during his visit to the US earlier this month.

There was no public grumbling about the change among the Jewish delegates. In fact, it was believed to have been welcomed by the Swiss, because the absence of an American gave the impression that the commission was "out of balance."

However, instead of a pair of Israelis, the delegation now has a pair from the World Jewish Congress - Lauder is its treasurer, while Baraja represents Latin America.

NEW YORK - WITH a bow to the realities of Israeli politics, the commission charged with identifying Jewish assets in Swiss banks dropped Labor's Shevah Weiss and picked up a Likud man, sources said yesterday.

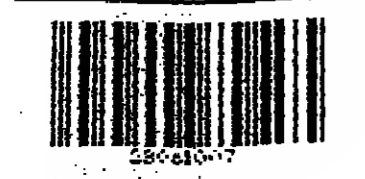
That man is Ronald Lauder, the American philanthropist-businessman and cosmetics-company heir, sources said, confirming the long-floating rumors of Weiss's departure.

The six-member commission was established by an agreement, announced on May 2, between the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Restitution Organization. The original Jewish delegates were Avraham Burg,

charged with arranging for an audit of dormant accounts in the Swiss banks, has not yet named a chairman or an auditor. Those announcements are imminent, sources said, adding that the chairman will be an internationally known figure unconnected to any of the parties.

None of the previous announcements about Holocaust restitution have come from the Israeli government, but exclusively from the WJRO. However, there is speculation that Netanyahu's government will take a more active role in restitution matters.

The previous government had an ambivalent attitude toward restitution activities. It had a compelling interest because Israel sees itself as the natural heir to Jewish communal property in Eastern Europe, and because billions of dollars in assets are at stake. But Jerusalem was reticent because restitution negotiations might have interfered with its diplomatic relations with some European countries.



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De Charette: Israel should honor pledge and leave Hebron

FRENCH Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said yesterday that Israel should honor its pledge to withdraw from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli rule.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told de Charette that France had an important role to play because of the "difficult situation" created by the hardline policies of Israel's new government.

"We are in need of the French role at this time more than any time before," Arafat said. "We need France, and it's important role to serve the peace process."

De Charette said France was committed to supporting the peace process. Talks between the Israelis and Palestinians and plans for a Hebron withdrawal have been effectively frozen since a series of suicide bombings by Islamic militants in February and March.

"Peace is the only alternative, and for that everything that has been signed should be honored, including Hebron," de Charette said.

He also urged Israel to go ahead with talks on a final settlement and "respect the special situation of

Jerusalem which is part of the negotiations."

De Charette noted that he talked with Arafat about the Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

Israel's new government has vowed to halt the use of the Orient House as a de facto foreign ministry, and opposes the Palestinian goal of making the Arab sector of the city the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

De Charette said France had not changed its policy about dealing with Orient House. But he met senior Palestinian officials at the French consulate and sent his aides and advisers to Orient House instead.

He said France will give special support for education and social institutions in east Jerusalem, where 155,000 Palestinians live.

Arafat was asked if he had promised Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in the first high-level meeting Tuesday that the Palestinian Authority would not use the Orient House for political activity in Jerusalem.

"Who told you so?" Arafat replied. "I am not in a situation to reply to this rumor." (AP)



Thousands gather at the Western Wall last night for traditional Tisha Be'av prayers. At the same time, some 50 men and women held a Reform service together in a courtyard in the Jewish Quarter overlooking the Wall under a heavy police guard. There were no incidents. (Text Haim Shapiro; photo: Brian Hendler)

High Court upholds release of Palestinian women

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the release of two Palestinian women terrorists convicted of murder, saying the decision to pardon them was reasonable.

The petition, filed by the Terror Victims Association, challenged President Ezer Weizman's decision to pardon Anam Jabari and May Ghussein. Jabari was sentenced to 12 years in 1988 for killing a yeshiva student in Jerusalem; Ghussein was sentenced to life plus 12 years for seriously wounding a Jewish tourist in 1991, and then, while in jail, killing an Arab girl whom she suspected of being a collaborator.

"We're disappointed in the decision," said Arye Bachrach, whose son Ohad was killed by terrorists last summer, in response to the ruling. "It could be that this was the right decision from a legal point of view. But from the point of view of natural justice, it was wrong."

Meir Indor, head of the Terror Victims Association, argued that the pardon created a double standard, where killers were pardoned according to their nationality rather than their crime. It also endangered the lives of other Israelis, he said, by sending a message that killers can expect an early release as long as they are members of the right organization.

EVELYN GORDON

"[Jabari] had one thing in her favor," he told the court. "She was a member of [PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's] Fatah. Incidentally, she wasn't a member of Fatah at the time of the murder. She acquired her membership by shooting a Jew. Fatah gave her its protection after she shot a Jew."

"This creates an intolerable situation in which there are some people who have immunity before the law," he added, saying the government should not be given carte blanche to trample on basic principles of justice for the sake of political agreements.

However, Justices Theodor Orr, Yitzhak Zamir and Dalia Dornier accepted the state's argument that it was legitimate for both Weizman and Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman to take diplomatic agreements into account when deciding on a pardon request. Government attorney Michael Blass stressed that this was not a minor part of the agreement; to the PLO, he said, the release of these women was a major issue.

The Oslo Accords specifically require Israel to release all female Palestinian prisoners, regardless of their crime.

Blass also said the women's release was conditional upon their

signing a commitment to refrain from further acts of terror.

"The court gave its imprimatur today to the destruction of the rule of law in Israel with respect to Arabs," Indor said after the hearing.

According to details of the women's files presented to the court, Jabari might have been a candidate for pardon even without the agreement. Not only has she already served two-thirds of her sentence, she was 17, drunk and pregnant when she committed the crime, and, according to a psychiatric report, without any clear political convictions. Originally, the district court convicted her of manslaughter rather than murder, since she shot the student only after he rebuffed her attempt at conversation. However, the Supreme Court convicted her of murder on appeal, as she shot him four times after he was wounded.

In contrast, Ghussein could never have been released except as part of the agreement. Not only has she served only four years of her life-plus sentence, but both her crimes were premeditated political acts. When she murdered her cellmate, who was a minor, she drugged her to put her to sleep, then strangled her. Uncertain that the strangulation had succeeded, she then drowned her in a bowl of water.

Peace Now begins anti-settlement campaign

EVELYN GORDON

PEACE Now fired the opening shots of its latest campaign against expanding settlements yesterday at a Jerusalem press conference on the settlements' growth during the past four years.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled today to hold his first cabinet discussion on the issue of settlements and their possible expansion.

Gavri Bargil, a member of Peace Now's executive, said the conference was prompted by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's "miserable speech" to Congress in Washington, which appeared to indicate that he planned to expand the settlements. In Peace Now's eyes, this would be a death blow to the peace process, Bargil said.

Peace Now Executive member Mordechai Bar-On promised that the movement would fight the construction of both new settlements and neighborhoods, since it sees no distinction between the two.

"Peace Now objects to any [Jewish] building in the territories, and will use any tactic to fight it. This could even mean standing in front of tractors," he said.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria expressed sorrow over Peace Now's stand.

"It's distressing and terribly unfortunate that there are Jews in Israel who, on the eve of Tisha

Be'av — the day we commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem and our homeland — spend their time, efforts and financial resources doing everything they can to see to it that towns, cities and villages in the Jewish heartland of Israel be frozen, dried up and destroyed," council spokesman Yehiel Leiter said. "Peace Now has been barking for years, but [the settlements] continue to grow — and that's how it will be in the future."

"They've got to be in a sort of political dreamworld ... to believe that if these Jewish communities could expand, according to their figures, by 40 percent during a Rabin-Peres government, that under a Netanyahu government they wouldn't expand at least the same amount," he added. "The people of Israel voted for a government that favors Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria."

Bargil said that precisely because Netanyahu told Congress he could do no less than the Labor government on this front, it was important to be clear on how much the settlements really had grown under Labor. Netanyahu's figure of 50% growth is high, he claimed, saying the real figure is around 39%.

Peace Now agreed with Netanyahu's figure that there are

about 145,000 Jewish residents in the territories now. However, it disputed his figure of 96,000 in June 1992, saying the figure then was 105,000-106,000. All of these figures are estimates, since there is no hard data on the settler population as of either June 1992 or June 1996. The closest figures are the Central Bureau of Statistics' data from December 31, 1991 (101,200) and census figures from October 31, 1995 (138,000).

Peace Now said most of the growth in the settlements under Labor was due to 10,000 half-finished houses the Likud left behind, which Labor completed. In addition, Labor built 3,942 housing units on its own, mainly in Ma'aleh Adumim, Betar and Givat Ze'ev.

Peace Now found that the settlements in Gaza grew faster than those in Judea and Samaria under Labor, though this is partly because the Gaza settlements are much smaller. Gaza's Jewish population increased by 55%, or 1,867 people, between January 1, 1992, and October 31, 1995, while that of Judea and Samaria grew by 37%, or 34,971 people.

Peace Now's report suggested that the faster growth in Gaza was because "the evacuation of the Gaza Strip actually increased the

security of the settlers in Gush Katif," Leiter, however, laughed when he heard this explanation.

"Nobody feels more secure because we've subcontracted [our security] to terrorist organizations," he said. "The reason the growth in Gaza is dramatic is because the council put extra emphasis on populating these areas after they were turned over to the Palestinian Authority ... This goes to show, once again the resiliency of the settlement movement."

In total, Peace Now said, 53% of the increase in the settler population between the end of 1991 and the end of 1994 occurred in Ma'aleh Adumim, Betar, Efrat, Kiryat Sefer, Ariel and Alfei Menashe.

Only 13 settlements lost people during these three years, and all of the losses, Peace Now secretary-general Mosi Raz said, appeared to be for "social reasons rather than political reasons."

A number of the smaller settlements far from the Green Line increased their population by 100% or more during these years, the report continued. These included two Gaza settlements: Netzarim, whose population rose from 20 to 164, and Nisanit, up from 60 to 323.

Raz said the group believes there are fewer people in the territories than official figures show.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Three policemen injured**
Three border policemen suffered light to moderate injuries when the jeep in which they were traveling collided with a truck at Kibbutz Givat Oz. The accident was reportedly caused by the truck, laden with rocks, which overtook the jeep and then swerved into it. *lit*
- Closure eased**
Thousands of Palestinians returned to work yesterday in Israel after the five-month-long restrictions on workers from the territories were eased. Palestinian officials in Gaza said they distributed 2,083 permits issued by the Israeli authorities to persons in the Gaza Strip yesterday. This brought to 27,483 the number of Palestinians allowed to work inside the Green Line. A Palestinian official said that another 1,031 permits issued Tuesday by Israel would be distributed today. *lit*
- PA releases Jihad leader**
Mohammed Hindi, an Islamic Jihad leader jailed by the Palestinian Authority after the last wave of suicide bombings four months ago, was released from prison and placed under house arrest yesterday. The PA said Hindi's poor health led to the move. *lit*

Kahalani: PA can't use Orient House

LIAT COLLINS

"THE Israeli government intends to stand by its word that there will be no activities by the Palestinian Authority in Orient House," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (The Third Way) told the Knesset yesterday.

"A number of meetings have taken place and we have determined a policy: We will not allow any activity by the PA to take place [there]. We have sent very, very clear messages [to this effect], including during [Tuesday's] meeting between Foreign Minister David Levy and PA Chairman [Yasser] Arafat."

On the controversy over French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette's cancelled plans to visit Orient House, he said, "regarding official visits by foreign ministers, we will do all we can to prevent them. It's impossible to physically stop a foreign minister, but it's possible to create a system to avoid a situation where Orient House is in effect the PA's foreign ministry."

"I promise that this government will not be a part of these visits and will prevent them," Kahalani said.

King Hassan avoiding Netanyahu for time being

ELDAD BECK PARIS

MOROCCO's King Hassan is avoiding any direct contact with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu because of Netanyahu's stance that Jerusalem's status is not negotiable, according to Robert Assaraf, one of the leaders of the Jewish community in Morocco.

Assaraf said that the king is waiting to see what direction the Likud-led government will take — particularly concerning Jerusalem — before meeting with Netanyahu.

Hassan refused Netanyahu's request to visit him in Morocco on a return trip from the US last week. Hassan also declined to accept a telephone call from Netanyahu after his election in May.

Assaraf, who is well connected to the Moroccan royal court, said Hassan has always considered the issue of Jerusalem as the most complicated and difficult point of the peace negotiations.

"His majesty is behaving as a leader of an Arab state and as a spiritual leader of the Moslem nation," Assaraf explained.

"Beside his efforts to promote the Arab-Israeli peace process during the last 20 years, the king has always considered solving the problem of Jerusalem essential for the Moslem world."

THE KNESSET

The public is advised that the Knesset will be closed to visitors today, Tisha B'Av, July 25, 1996.

Tisha Be'av press conference canceled

JUDY SIEGEL

THE release of the Navon Committee report on the Ethiopian blood donation "scandal," scheduled by the Prime Minister's Office and the committee for today — Tisha Be'av — has been postponed to early next week after complaints that a press conference wasn't appropriate for the "darkest day" of the Jewish year. The committee, headed by former president Yitzhak Navon, met for some three months and prepared their recommendations over a period of two months; the report was ready nearly two weeks ago.

After queries by the press and by Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush, the Prime Minister's Office announced that Premier Binyamin Netanyahu would not receive the report today, and that a press conference disclosing the findings would be postponed as well.

The Navon Committee spokesmao and Netanyahu's spokesman each claimed they had pointed out to the other the "inappropriateness" of the event on the fast day and blamed the other office for the foulup. The committee had been appointed by then-premier Shimon Peres to investigate charges that Mago David Adom "lied" to Ethiopian immigrants who donated blood, but which was disposed of unused due to the relatively high rate of HIV in the community.

MKs want friendship association with PNC

LIAT COLLINS

A GROUP of MKs is asking to establish a parliamentary friendship association with members of the Palestinian National Council.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz), who initiated the project, said "the idea is to have contacts at less than the government level. All the contacts for the past four years have been at the government level and didn't come down one or two levels. In fact, there was no real fabric woven and no real get-together meetings. The idea is to have a dialogue at this lower level, in effect, to enable parliamentary discourse."

Zucker said he had asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) for permission to establish the friendship association but even without permission the meet-

ings would be held "in some format."

So far 16 MKs — including Likud MKs Yehuda Lankri and Gideon Ezra — have signed the letter asking for the friendship association. Zucker said more MKs are expected to join later. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer (Labor) refused to join.

Zucker said he had Palestinian agreement for the idea from Ahmed Qreia whom he met in Gaza last week.

CORRECTION

The name of the New Jersey lawyer mentioned in yesterday's story about the reunion of Solomon Bromberg and Rivka Bromberg Feingold is Greg Feldman.

Clevelanders Support Laniado Hospital

Mrs. Sara Adler (center), with her son David and granddaughter Vida standing on her left, surrounded by family, friends and fellow Clevelanders, at the dedication of the Adler Dining Hall, named after her late husband, Herman Adler, in the new, modern Obstetrics Wing of Netanya's Laniado Hospital.

FLAMES OF REVOLT

On February 1, 1944 the Irgun Zvai Lumi, under the leadership of Menachem Begin, declared its revolt against the British in Palestine. This proved to be a critical factor in the British relinquishing their occupation, and in the birth of the State of Israel. This thrilling, authentic 100 minute videocassette documents the complete story of the daring young men and women who made up the Irgun, the large-scale operations they undertook, and earth shattering events they caused, which shook the world and the Jewish community in Palestine. Includes interviews with Irgun fighters, British soldiers, historians, and archive film footage.

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Yeshivat Dvar Yerushalayim

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our friend

BART STERN

of Los Angeles

and send condolences to his wife Ann, his children Jonathan and Nina, and his family.

The funeral will take place today, Tisha B'Av, at 8:00 p.m., meeting at the entrance to Har Hamenuhot.

Shiva until 10 p.m. at the Lewis residence, 8 Rehov Beer Sheba, Nachlaot, Jerusalem.

015200104

July 26, 1996



President Ezer Weizman pays a condolence visit to Hadassah and Mordechai Fink, the parents of St-Sgt. Yosef Fink, who was laid to rest in Ra'anana Monday after being missing in action in Lebanon for 10 years. Weizman also visited the family of St-Sgt. Rahamin Aishelkai, the second soldier whose remains were returned.

PA kidnap victim drops Coptic Church suit

ABED Salem Hirbawi, who was kidnapped by the Palestinian Authority last week, has requested that his suit against the Coptic Church's alleged encroachment on his property be dropped, meeting the PA's condition for his release, a family member said yesterday.

BILL HUTMAN and HAIM SHAPIRO
aid of the Egyptian government, which persuaded Arafat to support its claim to an Old City property that Hirbawi leases.

the Holy Sepulcher. Uri Mor, director of the Department for Christian Communities, said that the disputed property, which is underneath the Coptic Monastery adjoining the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, is part of the historic church. Mor said that the rooms had been built by the crusaders as part of the church, but that they had later been filled with debris.

Kahalani backs J'lem police

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday appeared to back down from his criticism of the Jerusalem police's handling of the haredi demonstrations on Rehov Bar-Ilan, after a meeting with Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit.

BILL HUTMAN
They noted that Amit presented his plan for handling mass haredi rallies planned for this Shabbat in Jerusalem, and that Kahalani did not demand any major changes.

Police told to use more restraint against haredim

LIAT COLLINS
INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday promised the Knesset the police would be more moderate during Shabbat demonstrations on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan.

He said that police water cannons and horses would be stationed away from demonstrators and only used if absolutely necessary.

Suissa says he'll prosecute stores open on Shabbat

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Eli Suissa told the Knesset this week that there were plans to prosecute stores in the Haifa and Rehovot shopping malls which are open on Shabbat.

He said a spot check had found several stores open in Haifa malls and these would be prosecuted after receiving warnings in the past. He also said stores had been found to be open in Rehovot's shopping mall but that the spokes-

woman for the company which runs the mall had said it was opposed to stores operating on Shabbat. Suissa said a check would be carried out at the mall at Bilu junction this week.

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US: Burundi president under protection at our embassy

WASHINGTON confirmed yesterday that Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya had taken refuge in the US embassy a day after fleeing from an angry crowd of the minority Tutsis.

"He spent last night at the ambassador's residence. He is still there," a State Department official said.

As the central African country sank deeper into crisis it was unclear if the president, a Hutu, had relinquished office.

He failed to appear at a scheduled news conference inside the residence of the US ambassador.

A source there, who declined to be identified, told reporters: "He has not resigned and he is considering his position."

"It looks as though a coup is unfolding. The center of government has been undermined, in fact there is no government."

Ntibantunganya was escorted to the ambassador's residence after Tutsi paratroopers were posted at main government positions, including the TV and radio station in the capital.

"The president feared for his life and his own security forces were not responding to his requests," said James Bansubiko, a close adviser to the president. "He is staying with the US ambassador to make sure he is not going to be killed."

In Washington, an administration official said the military was attempting to depose Ntibantunganya and he was expected to flee to Tanzania.

"The United States will not, under any circumstances, tolerate a government installed by force or intimid-

News agencies
BUJUMBURA

ation in Burundi," US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

Bansubiko said the president was not resigning. But diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was unlikely Ntibantunganya would remain in power.

Ntibantunganya met with US Ambassador Morris Hughes to determine his next move.

"The most important thing right now is to make sure that the population in Burundi will not start killing each other," Bansubiko said.

Despite the president's flight and anti-government demonstrations yesterday morning, the streets of the capital were calm.

Ntibantunganya was pelted with stones and cow dung as he arrived for a funeral for 340 Tutsis, mostly women and children, massacred Saturday by Hutu rebels in Bugendana, in central Burundi.

The normally tight security around the capital was heightened. Tutsi paratroopers were stationed at the government-run radio and TV stations, and outside government buildings.

Early yesterday, the junior partner in the coalition government rejected both Ntibantunganya and the 1994 agreement setting up the current government, a weak coalition of the two ethnic groups.

"The presidency of Sylvestre Ntibantunganya is a total failure. Instead of being the president of the country, he is the head of the Hutu ethnic group," Charles Mukasi, the

president of the Tutsi-dominated UPRONA party, said at a news conference in Bujumbura.

"He is guilty of high treason and must be toppled."

Mukasi also a Hutu, said the party's decision to renounce the 1994 pact technically dissolves the government.

"We are speaking to others to build a new government and elect a new president," Mukasi said. "The process will start today in order to bring peace and security to Burundi so that violence can end."

The agreement followed the October 1993 assassination of Burundi's first democratically elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, which threatened to plunge the tiny nation into chaos. Widespread violence followed, and thousands of people, mainly Tutsis, were killed by enraged Hutus.

Still, the convention kept a government in place.

UPRONA's rejection of Ntibantunganya as president was the third time the party has tried to change the two-year-old government convention agreed to by UPRONA, the mostly Hutu FRODEBU and 10 smaller parties.

The other two times, the party obtained the removal of a prime minister and the speaker of the legislature.

Leonce Sinzikayo, speaker of the national assembly and a leader of the Hutu-led FRODEBU party, did not condemn UPRONA's decision yesterday, but he urged all parties to participate in negotiations to prevent a military coup.



Burundian President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya (with glasses) is rushed away by his bodyguards after being stoned by angry Tutsis attending the mass funeral for the 340 civilians killed in a massacre by Hutu rebels at the weekend. Ntibantunganya has taken refuge in the US Embassy. (Reuters)

Third prisoner dies in Turkish hunger strike

ISTANBUL (AP) - A third jail inmate on a mass hunger strike died yesterday, his lawyer said, as the government sought to regain control of three prisons.

Sixty-one more prisoners joined the fast. More than 1,900 inmates in 33 prisons have been refusing solid food for the past two months to protest prison conditions. About 275 inmates are refusing even sugared water.

The liberal daily Yeni Yuzyl said 56 other fasting prisoners were in critical condition.

The 35-year-old prisoner, Ilginc Ozkeskin, who died yesterday had been awaiting trial since 1994 on charges of membership in an outlawed left-wing group, according to the People's Law Office, which represented him and other political prisoners. He was a pris-

oner at Bayrampasa jail here.

Altan Berdan Keringiller, another inmate who died at Bayrampasa Tuesday, said in a message he left before his death that the hunger strikes would strengthen their revolutionary cause.

"The victory will be ours," Keringiller said in the message obtained by The Associated Press.

The strikers set conditions to end their protest, the law office said. Among them were better access to legal defense and medical treatment and an end to transfers and beatings in jails.

The inmates also demanded that the government close Eskisehir prison, which unlike other Turkish prisons has cells instead of wards. The government has opposed this condition firmly for

the prison 300 km southeast of Istanbul.

Turks in several cities in Germany, which has a large Turkish population, protested the deaths.

The government said inmates were in control of Bayrampasa and Umraniye in Istanbul and Buca prison in Izmir, with a total estimated 1,600 prisoners.

Eleven fasting inmates at Bayrampasa were in critical condition said lawyer Ali Dizdar.

Justice Minister Sevtok Kazan flew to Istanbul yesterday to search for a solution.

Three leading writers appealed yesterday for an end to the crisis. Yasar Kemal, Orhan Pamuk and Zulfu Livaneli said the deaths were "the responsibility of the whole Turkish nation."

Spreading food poisoning epidemic baffles Japan

TOKYO (AP) - After putting more than 1,000 school lunches under the microscope, medical authorities conceded yesterday they have yet to find the culprit in a food poisoning outbreak that has killed seven people.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto urged ministers at an emergency meeting to do all they can to pinpoint the cause.

Thousands have gotten sick from infection with the E. coli O157 bacteria, but officials still aren't sure what food or foods are spreading it. Suspects include raw meat, cold noodles and tuna paste.

An 85-year-old woman and a schoolgirl died Tuesday from complications resulting from infection with the bacteria. The toll was

threatening to rise in the western city of Sakai, which has been hardest-hit.

As of last night 101 people in Sakai including 98 children were suffering symptoms of hemolytic uremic syndrome, or HUS, a potentially deadly complication of O157 infection that causes kidney failure.

Twenty-eight children were on constant dialysis, and two remained near death, the city said.

School lunches are blamed for the widespread infections among children in Sakai. Authorities there said they had examined 1,154 full school lunches and 198 other ingredients served July 10-12 but failed to detect any E. coli O157 bacteria.

Since symptoms of infection with O157 can take many days to appear,

the tainted food likely came from earlier lunches that were thrown out before the food poisoning problem emerged, officials said.

"It's going to be extremely difficult to find the cause, said Tetsu Kamiki, the head of the Sakai public health research laboratory. He said investigators plan to take a closer look at food distributors who might have spread the bacteria.

In the meantime, he said, "I'd like everyone to wash their hands very carefully."

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto convened the first emergency meeting of ministers involved with the outbreak and called on them to "exert every effort to find the cause and stop a recurrence."

Over 50 killed in Colombo train station bombing

TAMIL rebels who had been on the run for months struck back with a ferocious bomb attack on a commuter train in Colombo yesterday, as army troops uncovered the extent of the debacle at a key northern base.

At least 54 people were killed when two bombs exploded on separate cars as the train began pulling out of a suburban station packed with people returning home from work. Hospitals reported more than 350 wounded.

Police said they believed the explosions were caused by parcel bombs. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

However, the attack bore the hallmarks of Tamil Tiger rebels, who marked the 13th anniversary this week of the beginning of their campaign for independence for the Tamil minority in this predominantly Sinhalese nation.

It was the worst attack in the capital since a truck bomb devastated Colombo's commercial district Jan. 31, killing 88 people.

"This is obviously the work of the Tamil Tigers," said D.M. Tennakoon, one of the first policemen to reach the scene. The bombs "are similar to others they have exploded."

More than 43,000 people have been killed since 1983. Tamils accuse the Sinhalese major-

ity of discrimination in education and jobs.

In the embattled north, 2,000 army reinforcements reached the Mullaitivu base that had been overrun last Thursday by the Tigers and found only 11 soldiers hiding in a well, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

Nineteen others among the estimated 1,200-man garrison were known to have fled earlier to safety. Others may still be hiding in the jungle around the isolated coastal base, 275 km north of Colombo.

The officials said "a large number" of decomposing bodies were found among the ruined buildings. On Sunday, the guerrillas said they cremated 456 bodies and handed 55 to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The 11 survivors had been hiding in the well for days, and "climbed out when the assault force arrived, officials said.

The force, supported by warplanes, helicopters and naval gunships, had marched 5 km

since dawn from a beachhead south of the base.

The rebels continued firing long range mortars at the troops, but offered only light resistance. Most of the rebels had faded back into the jungle after stripping the base of its weapons and destroying some of its buildings.

The attack on both a military and a civilian target within one week showed that the Tigers have lost none of their fighting edge, despite defeats over the last seven months that encouraged some Sri Lankans to hope that the war was coming to an end.

Last December, the army expelled the guerrillas from Jaffna City, which had been the capital of a virtually independent fiefdom for five years. By May, the Tigers were evicted from all of the Jaffna Peninsula, the government said.

Those victories by the military had hardened opinions among radical Sinhalese and the powerful Buddhist clergy against yielding political concessions to the Tamils.

In Colombo, police tried to piece together leads about the bombs that exploded in the 5th and 8th coach of the train at Dehiwala, a middle class suburb 10 km south of Colombo.

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EU mandate Mostar in doubt

ZAGREB (Reuters) - European Union officials said yesterday their mission to help reunify the Bosnian city of Mostar was in doubt after negotiations failed to resolve a political impasse.

Marin Garrod, head of the EU administration in Mostar, presided over several hours of talks between Bosnian Croat and Muslim leaders in an attempt to resolve the crisis caused by a Croat boycott of the newly-elected city assembly.

The talks ended late without result and Garrod had turned to the EU presidency for instructions, Dragan Gasic, EU spokesman in Mostar, told Reuters.

Ten days ago EU ministers recommended an extension of the mandate, which expired on Monday, provided Croat and

Muslim leaders work together on promoting inter-ethnic administration of the southern town.

As long as Croat leaders stuck to the boycott, the new EU mandate could not be carried out, Gasic said.

"We have informed the EU Presidency in Dublin that so far it has been impossible for a new mandate to come into force," he said.

Gasic added: "It is up to Europe to decide what to do next. We have no mandate at the moment."

In Brussels, a spokesman said the EU was "deeply disturbed" by the deadlock but no decision had been taken to end the two-year mission there.

The Croats were refusing to recognise the results of local

elections on June 30 when the main Muslim party gained an edge of five seats in the city assembly.

The Croats insist the election should be annulled because of 26 illegal ballots at a polling station for Bosnian refugees in Bonn.

The EU decreed the election results final after a local electoral commission, divided along ethnic lines, failed to come to an agreement 11 days after the poll.

Protesting the EU decision, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) staged a boycott of the first session of the 37-seat city assembly on Tuesday.

Bosnian Muslim delegates held the city assembly session without the Croats and elected a Muslim as its head.

TWA crash team expects big finds today

EAST MORICHES, N.Y. (Reuters) - Investigators expected a massive diving operation yesterday to raise large amounts of wreckage and bodies from the ocean floor and help determine whether sabotage caused the crash of TWA Flight 800.

A week after the disaster, up to 120 divers were to probe the site and explore parts of the fuselage, one stretching 18 meters long, located 30 km offshore.

Officials said sonar located a

major field of submerged debris measuring about 3-km. by 1-km., about half the size of Manhattan Island, including a 15-meter piece sticking out of the sand.

Petty Officer Robert Lanier said yesterday remaining floating debris was drifting east but the Coast Guard would continue the search "until the last piece is found." The Coast Guard was in charge of the searching the surface area, especially an 8-km zone around

the crash site.

The Navy headed the diving effort and a spokeswoman said divers were on the scene with perfect weather conditions and were using powerful sonar to search the debris field, the area on the ocean floor where much of the wreckage came to rest. The plane's voice and data recorders may be in the area, investigators said, although equipment had not picked up the "pinging" sound the so-called black boxes emit.

PERSONALIA

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Time of My Life

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From here to maternity

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, After visiting a friend who gave birth, my wife became imbued with strong "maternal feelings" and wants to start a family. I'm quite agreeable to having children, but she is just not the "mother" type, and I fear for the welfare of our children.

She is devoted to something called the "women's liberation movement," and spends most of her time in this field. We have a maid, since my wife doesn't know how to boil water without burning it, make a bed, cook a meal, sweep or mop the floors, or do the laundry. If you don't believe me, ask her mother - another "women's liberation" devotee.

She promises me that all this will change after she has a baby. Can having a baby really make such a change in a woman? It never changed her mother. By the way, if there ever was a liberated woman it is my wife; and if there ever was an enslaved woman, it is the little Filipina who works for my wife.

Perplexed Husband
Somewhere in Israel
Dear Husband with Hubris,
Motherhood cannot transform your wife into a gourmet chef or first-rate floor cleaner.

But then, if these tasks were integral to procreation and parenthood, nature would have endowed women with pots and brooms for breasts. Your mother-in-law, for example, became and remains a mother - regardless of your opinion.

What is puzzling is your fear for the welfare of your unborn children. If the person with whom you share your life so arouses your cynicism and disdain, you must ask yourself why you are married to her - not whether she should be allowed to bear offspring. You might also remember that having a maid relieves you, too, of household chores. Which brings me to the "little" Filipina: Describing a woman who makes a respectable living as "enslaved" (another flip job at your feminist wife) may indicate that your fondness for females leaves something to be desired.

Dear Ruthie,
I am in the process of getting divorced. My problem is that I am extremely attracted to my lawyer, who is single. Should I hide this from him until the divorce is finalized? I think he is also attracted to me, though I'm not certain.

Excited Soon-to-Be Ex-Wife
Somewhere in Israel
Dear Lawyer-Lured,
Becoming attracted to authority figures - particularly those involved in some kind of counseling - is common.

Vulnerability makes the heart grow fonder, so to speak. Your lawyer probably seems to possess great wisdom and strength (not to mention wealth, given what you must be paying him).

Waiting until the divorce is final will allow you to judge him better under other circumstances.

Letters should be addressed to: Dear Ruthie, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

Flight 800: In terms of human loss, it's the Titanic of air disasters

RICK HAMPSON

THE doomed flight carried an extraordinary congregation of extraordinary people - people who always moved forward, out of drive or visio or accident of birth. The tragedy of TWA Flight 800 is the tragedy of promise and privilege crushed without warning.

Disaster is supposed to choose its victims indiscriminately, raiding all levels of society. The victims of Flight 800, which exploded and crashed into the Atlantic ocean off New York's Long Island Wednesday, were the folks next door, but they were also the ones on the screen and in the newspaper.

They included a philanthropist, flying to France to rejoin her children on vacation; three businessmen trying to close an \$80 million deal; a leading executive at ABC Sports.

Many people have reported feeling, when they heard of the crash, that they knew someone on board. In many cases they did, although it might have been more accurate to say they knew of

them.

They knew Jed Johnson's interiors from the pages of Architectural Digest. They knew Jack O'Hara's name from the credits at the end of "Monday Night Football" and "ABC's Wide World of Sports." They knew Rico Puhlmann's fashion photos from the cover of Harpers Bazaar and GQ. Eileen Ford, grande dame of fashion modeling, called him "the last of the great gentleman photographers."

They knew Pam Lychner for her tireless advocacy of crime victims' rights, a cause that claimed her allegiance after she was attacked by a man with a history of sexual assaults in 1995. She founded Justice for All, an organization with thousands of members throughout the US.

Many of the passengers of Flight 800 lived in upscale places like Edgartown and Scarsdale and Grosse Pointe and went to schools like Harvard and Yale and Dartmouth.

They were people famous people knew. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani recognized the

name of Kirk Rheio, once a partner at his old law firm; Rhein, chief executive of Danielson Holding Co., was en route to Europe with two other executives trying to line up financing for an acquisition.

French President Jacques Chirac offered his condolences personally to Alain Merieux, president of the eponymously named French pharmaceutical company, on the death of his son Rodolphe.

Actor Joe Mantegna knew high-school English teacher Lois Van Epps, who lured him into acting and directed him in his first play at age 16.

"Up to that point, I had no more interest in acting than the man in the moon," Mantegna told The New York Times after learning of her death. "She was absolutely instrumental and vital to me in being the performer I am today."

Tenafly, New Jersey, lost its town administrator, Robert Miller. The medicines division of

Bristol-Myers Squibb lost its director of international technology, Luc Bossuyt. The State University of New York at Binghamton lost one of its most popular professors and a rising academic star, Constance Coiner.

France lost its greatest country-music guitarist, Marcel Dadi, who was on his way home after a visit to - where else? - Nashville. Saxophone player Wayne Shorter lost his wife and manager and his 17-year-old niece - she was the daughter of singer Jon Lucien - who were flying to meet him on a European tour. New York City Judge Michael Pesce lost his fiancée, Wall Street bond trader Bonnie Wolters.

TWA pilot Donald Gough and his wife were going to Finland to visit relatives. But Finnair flights were booked so they took TWA to Paris. The French painter Sylvain Delange was going home after exhibiting pictures at a festival in Colorado. But he misplaced his return ticket, and had to wait until Wednesday to leave.

Rodolphe Merieux, who worked for one of his family

business's US branches, was supposed to fly home to France on Friday. But he took an earlier flight to surprise his parents.

The lost potential and missed chances spanned generations. Beverly Hammer had recently passed her stockbroker's exam at age 59, and her 29-year-old daughter, Tracy, was less than a year away from finishing double doctorates in veterinary science and microbiology at Michigan State.

Flight 800's roster included the kind of people we sometimes envy or fear, and almost never pity. But in their pointless end people seemed to see the trademark of a century that has managed to make even mass murder impersonal.

On the day after Robert Miller and his wife died, having never made it to the vineyards of Burgundy, the mayor of Tenafly clutched a small white Bible and addressed Miller's old colleagues.

"We can't make sense of this," Mayor Ann Moscovitz said, "because it makes no sense." (AP)

Germany still can't decide on Holocaust museum

DOES Germany need a Holocaust Museum? A group of historians, writers and politicians who believe the answer is yes have been working for years on the concept. But the recent announcement that Berlin is the desired site has touched off reworked debate about the best way to address Nazi crimes in the land of their origin.

With memorials at former concentration camps deteriorating for lack of funds and other high-profile Holocaust projects still on the drawing board, critics say now is not the time for another expensive undertaking, no matter how worthwhile.

Supporters point to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and to Yad Vashem and call it an embarrassment that nothing similar exists in Germany.

"It would be one of the most important museums in the country with a great impact that also will be noted abroad," said Hans-Juergen Haessler, a historian at the Lower Saxony state museum in Hannover.

His initiative for a German Holocaust museum began in 1993, around the time the Washington museum opened. Others who have signed on to the project include author Gunther Grass, former Yad Vashem director Shmuel Krakowski and Oskar Lafontaine, national chairman of Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party.

A board of trustees formed to develop the project announced that Berlin would be the site of the museum. Haessler said they hope to begin construction by the turn of the century, financed through donations and a hoped-for 80 million marks (NIS 170m.) in public money.

But the announcement was met with quick criticism from those who believe the subject is already being addressed at existing institutions - like former concentration camps - and other institutions in various stages of development.

Those include:

- A museum of Nazi crimes to be built over the remains of the Gestapo dungeons in central Berlin, which currently houses an exhibit called "Topography of Terror." After years of discussion, construction is expected to begin next year.
- A national Holocaust memorial for the heart of Berlin, next to the Brandenburg Gate. Officials have said the cornerstone for that memorial will be laid in early 1999, after a new design is found to replace one Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected.

- A new building for the Jewish Museum, designed by Daniel Libeskind and expected to open in 1998.

That museum will devote considerable space to the Holocaust, as well as to Jewish life before and after World War II.

But its director, Amnon Barzel, says he is still fighting to ensure he will have adequate funding and space within the new building, a wing of the Berlin Museum.

"I am not against any memorial or any museum relating to the Holocaust," Barzel said. "But first of all we have to do this ... and then we can see about the other things."

Meanwhile, officials in charge of preserving the remnants of the concentration camps and the learning centers there say they desperately need money too.

At Sachsenhausen outside Berlin, for example, the concrete floor of "Station Z," where the crematorium, gas chamber and execution field were, is in danger of collapse, officials say. "Caution" signs around the camp warn visitors to stay back from decaying walls.

Some 80 million marks is needed over the next 10 years for restoration work at Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrück, also located in Brandenburg, state officials say.

Maintaining the sites of the Nazi horror as a reminder to future generations is "much more important" than opening a museum, Brandenburg's culture minister, Steffen Reiche, has argued.

Haessler, however, says the planned museum is not meant to detract from the other memorials, but to complement them and provide a more complete picture about Nazi crimes.

"What we want is to give clear information and to educate," he said.

He also dismissed the lack of money argument, saying it was more a question of priorities.

"When billions are being spent to redevelop Berlin, then we don't see why there couldn't be a provision for such a museum that would present a very important part of the German history and also be a sign to the world," he said.

But others say Berlin can only handle so much at one time.

Michel Friedman, board member of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said Germany needs more, not fewer, places for remembering the Holocaust.

"Nonetheless we have to watch out that, by having so many initiatives, we don't end up with nothing at the end," he said in a radio interview. (AP)



The utricularia is the only carnivorous plant known to grow naturally in Israel. (Amikim Shuv)

Carnivorous plants: their bark is worse than their bite

KEREN MARKUZE

EXTINCTION may lose its permanence if Israeli plant enthusiasts succeed in paving the way for the reestablishment of rare forms of vegetation into their natural habitat.

This is one of the long-term goals of the Carnivorous Plant Society of Israel. Founded in December 1994, the group's main focus is to increase the interest within Israeli society about the existence of carnivorous plants, and to create a forum for its 100 members to meet and exchange information and plant material.

The society's current project involves a plant known as utricularia, the only carnivorous plant to ever grow naturally in Israel. With the fastest eating mechanism in the world, it can trap its prey in 2/100ths of a second. This is done despite the trap's size of 1 mm. Although today it can only be found in botanical gardens, or other man-made reserves, it was once prevalent in the Hula and near Hadera.

These particular areas were conducive to the plant's growth due to the existence of bogs and marshes. Since the utricularia grows in small bodies of water, it relied on these sources for its perpetuation.

However, during the waves of immigration at the close of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th, these marshes were drained for land settlement by the immigrants, who did not realize the necessity of leaving some of these water bodies for vegetation. Consequently, the utricularia seemingly disappeared from Israel.

Only 20 years ago, the plant was

Lying isn't such a bad thing

THE check's in the mail.

"No, you haven't gained weight."

"I am not a crook."

We've all heard those fibs, and perhaps even told a few of our own. Lying is a part of everyday life, and new studies by a University of Virginia psychologist confirm it.

"Most people think lying is manipulative and exploitative," psychology professor Bella DePaulo said. "There is still that element - lying for grades and promotions, etc. But those lies are not the most common ones."

More often, people lie to enhance their self-esteem, to get others to like or respect them and to spare others' feelings, DePaulo said.

"There usually has been an assumption that lying is this really awful behavior in pursuit of people's materialistic and crass self-interest," she said. "It's often really about feeling better about yourself."

The two studies, which appear in this month's Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, explore what kind of people lie and how often they do it.

DePaulo and Deborah A. Kashy, an assistant professor of psychology at Texas A&M University, analyzed journal entries of 77 students at the University of Virginia and 70 residents of Charlottesville. The 147 subjects recorded their social interactions every day for a week.

By analyzing more than 1,500 lies, the researchers found that the undergraduates fibbed in one of every three interactions. The

Charlottesville residents lied in one of every five interactions.

Lies were categorized as self-centered - told to enhance the liar's image or personal advantage or avoid embarrassment - or altruistic, told to make someone else feel good.

In general, people tell many more self-centered lies, such as "I am not a crook." Women tell more altruistic lies to other women, such as "You look great," and "I agree with you."

DePaulo and Kashy found that the people most likely to lie are extroverted, often manipulative and care deeply about what others think of them. Those who reported more satisfaction with the quality of their same-gender relationships told fewer lies overall, and the lies they did tell tended to be altruistic.

Because lying is an everyday occurrence, people don't think minor lies are serious, don't plan lies in advance and don't worry too much about being caught, the research found.

Margaret Farley, professor of Christian ethics at Yale University Divinity School, says all ethical systems traditionally condemn lying.

"The prohibition is based on at least two premises: First, we can't communicate with each other at all if we can't count on truth-telling. The second prohibition is that it can be coercive. If I've intentionally deceived you then I've coerced your choice. It's called fraud sometimes."

But some lies are just part of ordinary discourse, "a sort of agreed-upon mode of conversing with people that we take with a

grain of salt," she said.

"All of these things are a matter of degrees."

BILL TUCKER, a sales consultant at Dick Strauss Ford in Chesterfield County, says the automotive sales industry often gets a bum rap for being dishonest.

"I don't personally think we need to lie to make a sale," Tucker said. "If a customer comes up to a 'purple' car, I won't try to push it on them even though it's been sitting there for 120 days and we need to get it off the lot."

"I get lied to by customers more than they lie to them," he said. "People trying to get more on their trade-in don't reveal problems [with their cars]. They probably think we're a big business and probably can absorb their costs."

Are people lying more than they used to? No, but it's easier to distrust people we don't know well, Farley said.

"It's part of the depersonalization of society," she said. "But what's important isn't just pointing fingers at others; it's important to examine ourselves from time to time as well."

DePaulo says that being honest all the time isn't a great idea either because the truth often hurts.

"I can go as far as saying it would be a disaster if everyone tried to tell the truth all the time," she said.

"If you tell the whole truth, you start alienating people. You'd have to go back and apologize because you've made a mess of your interpersonal relationships." (AP)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, July 25, 1996

New bill aims to curb central bank's monetary powers

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAEL'S monetary policy would be set by a five-man committee, rather than solely by the governor of the Bank of Israel, according to a bill submitted by members of the coalition and the opposition to the Knesset yesterday.

The bill, submitted by former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor), Avraham Poraz (Meretz), and Meir Sheerit (Likud), calls for the establishment of a five-person governing committee that would include the central bank's governor, the head of either the bank's research department or its monetary department, to be chosen by the governor; the head of a university economics or business administration department, to be chosen by the Council for Higher Education; a former Bank of Israel governor or some other person with "outstanding economic abilities," to be appointed by the cabinet; and a Finance Ministry representative, to be appointed by the Finance Minister. A majority of the committee would have to approve all the governor's decisions on monetary policy.

The Bank of Israel yesterday said that while it would welcome any proposal aimed at improving the definition of its tasks and enhancing its independence, it decisively opposes the idea of a Treasury representative taking part in the monetary decision-making process.

"I know of no Western central bank which allows such a breach of its inclination to take its deci-

Teva buys major UK drug producer

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries has signed an agreement to purchase Approved Prescription Services, Great Britain's second largest generic drug manufacturer, and its subsidiaries for \$52.7 million, the company announced yesterday.

Teva said it purchased APS/Berk, as the company and its subsidiaries are known, from Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Inc., a Pennsylvania-based drug company.

Teva expects the purchase of APS/Berk to give the company, which has manufacturing and

marketing facilities in the US, Israel, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Romania, Holland, and France, a stronger foothold in Europe and allow it to expand its reach internationally, company CFO Dan Susskind said.

"This is an important step in increasing Teva's presence in Europe," he said. "We will integrate them within Teva's system to make use of the synergy between them and us and to enhance our global presence."

APS/Berk suffered losses of

about \$1.2 million last year, but is currently operating in the black. The company's sales totaled 22 million pounds sterling in the first half of 1996.

News of the purchase followed a recent announcement that the US Food and Drug Administration had decided not to allow Teva to bypass a step in the approval procedure for its first original drug, the multiple sclerosis treatment Copaxone.

In January, Teva agreed to purchase New Jersey-based Biocraft Laboratories for \$285.9m.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Industrial production up: Industrial production, excluding diamonds, grew by an average 0.3 percent a month from January to May, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. Production for the year to May rose 3.5%. This is a continuation of the 1995 trend when the annual increase stood at 8.5%.
Meanwhile the number of employees in industry remained constant between September 1995 and May. *David Harris*

Sharansky to visit N. America: Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky will visit the US and Canada next week. In addition to meeting trade officials, he will complete negotiations for a free-trade agreement with Canada. Currently, bilateral trade is worth some \$300 million, but the hope among local businessmen is to raise that to \$1 billion by 2000. Sharansky will also participate in a meeting of the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission. *David Harris*

Industrial park managers to meet: The Manufacturers Association will host the inaugural meeting of the managers of the country's industrial parks next week. Twenty-five parks will be represented at the gathering, whose aim is to update members on the latest economic, management and marketing news.
The forum, which will be held bi-monthly, also comprises managers of some companies located on the industrial sites. *David Harris*

43% increase in number of poor children: There was a 43 percent increase in the number of destitute children in last year, according to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry. Using the legal definition, the ministry said yesterday that 2,090 children were helpless in 1995. Figures published in the annual youth probation service report show 1,630 children were subjected to sexual abuse. This year an increasing number of workers are being trained to deal with such young people, the ministry said. *David Harris*

Swiss banks lending IEC \$130m: Two Swiss banks have agreed to lend Israel Electric Corporation \$130 million to fund the purchase of equipment to develop its network. The loan from UBS and Credit Suisse will be used as part of IEC's \$1.2 billion investment in 1996, said the company yesterday. *David Harris*

Tecnomatix Technologies shows 79% increase in net income

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TECNOMATIX Technologies Ltd.'s (Nasdaq) net income soared by 79% in the second quarter to \$1.79 million compared to \$1m. in the same period one year ago, the company announced yesterday.

Per share income rose from \$0.12 to \$0.19, and revenues for the period increased by 30% to \$20.2m. compared to \$15.5m. in the same period in 1995.

Harel Beit-On, president and CEO of the Herzliya-based developer of computer-aided production engineering (CAPE) software products, attributed the company's quarterly success to regional growth as well as strong demand for new product lines.

"We experienced strong growth across all geographical territories with new and existing customers implementing a broad range of Tecnomatix solutions," Beit-On said.

During the quarter, industry leaders such as Boeing, General Electric, General Motors, Fiat, BMW and Renault placed orders for Tecnomatix' printed circuit board assembly machines and manufacturing processes and engineering products.

The company's CAPE products, which are designed to maximize efficiency in manufacturing, allow production engineers to create virtual machines and production equipment models, interactively arrange them into a virtual manufacturing line and manipulate them to perform on-screen manufacturing activities.

Freeze on public sector hiring to begin on August 1

DAVID HARRIS

THE public sector will stop hiring on August 1 as part of the government's plan to cut the budget by NIS 350 million in the remainder of 1996 and NIS 4.9 billion next year, the Civil Service Commission said yesterday.

This is the first in a series of measures aimed at reducing the public sector payroll by more than 10,000 over the next 16 months. The cabinet agreed to lower the manpower level by 2 percent.

The cuts are intended to go much further than the Civil Service and will include local authorities, civilians in the defense forces, health fund employees, trade unions, universities, and the school system.

The Histadrut said it does not object to such administrative changes, as long as the government does not reduce the rights of existing workers. However, it added that it hopes the government will also refrain from making any political appointments while the freeze is in place.

Even if the government succeeds in reducing the public sector by 10,000, adding about 0.5% to the overall unemployment rate, economists say this would not take into account the net growth of departmental payrolls, which come as a natural result of factors such as population growth.

In 1995, 551,000 people were employed in the public sector, according to Bank of Israel statistics.

The 2% reduction will be followed by annual cuts of 1% until 2001.



Gaza children sell cakes to help raise money for their families yesterday. Thousands of Palestinian children have been forced into the local labor market after their fathers lost their jobs in Israel due to the closure. (Reuters)

Philip Morris to shut Auschwitz plant

News agencies

WARSAW - US tobacco giant Philip Morris will halt production at its newly acquired Polish cigarette factory near Auschwitz in 1998 in order to consolidate production, it said in a statement yesterday.

"Our long-term plan for the investment envisaged that this would close," Philip Morris spokesman Michael Parsons said. Earlier this year Philip Morris paid \$227 million for 33 percent of Krakow-based Zaklady Przemyslu Tytoniowego (ZPTK), which owns the Auschwitz factory along with three others in southern Poland.

The US firm also acquired an option to take another 32% if it invests a further \$145m. over the next three years.

It said it had launched a comprehensive investment restructuring program for ZPTK, which has 4,000 employees and four factories, but part of the deal with the Polish government included maintaining employment levels for two years.

The debate over how to balance protection of the camp as a memorial with development needs for the town of 45,000 was rekindled earlier this year by Polish entrepreneur Janusz Marszalek and his German partner, Georg Schroeck, who planned to build a supermarket and restaurant near the main gate of Auschwitz.

Polish authorities later stopped that project following condemnation from the Knesset and international Jewish organizations.

"The government didn't ask us to close the factory," Parsons said.

"The government has started a consultation process."

The cigarette plant is the only factory in the zone, he added, though there is also residential and commercial development, as well as a bus depot and other businesses in the zone.

The government expects to announce more details of its plan for developments in the zone in mid-September.

"As one of the parties affected, in terms of being an owner of property in the zone, it's our responsibility to cooperate," Parsons said.

ZPTK has an annual production capacity of 35 billion cigarettes. The Auschwitz factory, which opened in the 1920s, produces local brands. Because of its size, "it's just not economically justifiable and it isn't necessary to the company," Parsons said.

ZPTK and Philip Morris currently control more than 30% of Poland's cigarette market, estimated at 95b. cigarettes a year, Parsons said.

Reports of NII, income tax collection merger denied

DAVID HARRIS

THE Income Tax Commission has rejected reports that the government is considering transferring responsibility to it for collecting national insurance and health contributions.

"No such proposal has come from us or anyone else. We don't know where this has come from," ITC spokeswoman Sarit Giladi said yesterday.

The idea was dismissed as "illogical" by chairman of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee MK Maxim Levy (Gesher).

"Maybe it's the intention or vision of the Treasury, but I know nothing of such a proposal," he said last night.

Removing such powers from the National Insurance Institute would require detailed legislation in the Knesset.

"If the ITC can cope it's a good idea, but I don't think it will do much to solve our economic problems," said Yacov Sheinin of the private consultancy Economic Models.

The organization of the workload of various bureaucracies is not a macroeconomic issue, he added.

"This together with other such matters needs sorting, but now the significant problem in our economy is being caused by the monetary policy, not the bureaucracy," Sheinin said.

Sharon: Israel will buy gas from more than one source

DAVID HARRIS

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said on Tuesday that Israel will buy its gas from more than one source in more than one country in order to avoid total dependency on a single supplier.

Such projects in the fields of gas and electricity can only contribute to security and peace in the area, he said.

Egypt, Qatar, France, Georgia and Germany have been identified as possible partners, Sharon said.

The minister also said he believes

the prices of gas for power stations and industry will come down with time. Ministry officials have been instructed not to sign hastily agreed deals, but to negotiate for the best priced supplies.

Sharon's comments come before the start of work on a natural gas pipeline from Egypt, a project he feels will lead to increasing cooperation between the two states.

The minister has recommended

that the gas from Egypt be purchased directly by its users rather than by the government.

Research is commencing on how to distribute the gas once it reaches Israel. The study will be conducted by Water Planning for Israel Ltd. together with several foreign companies.

Once the research is completed, the construction and infrastructure management work will be given to as many private Israeli and foreign companies as possible, Sharon said.

Ports and Railways Authority
Tender No. 9999/96

CRANES FOR SALE

REPEATED TENDER

- The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (hereinafter "The P.R.A.") offers the following used Container Crane in the Port of Haifa for sale:

| No. | Description | Qty | Make | Year | Capacity U/spreader | Gauge span | Availability |
|-----|-------------------|-----|--------|-------|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1.1 | Transaktier (FTC) | 5 | Paccoc | 72-77 | 30 Ton | 76 ft | Immediately |

- All cranes will be sold in an "As Is" condition
- The removal of the cranes from the Port of Haifa will be done in a limited schedule and in coordination with the PRA with minimum interference to port operations and at the bidders expense.
- Proposals may be submitted for one or more of the above listed cranes. Proposals must be submitted for each crane separately. A bid bond in the value of 5% of proposal, for all cranes proposed, not including VAT to be attached to the proposal. The bond will be in force for 90 days after the submission date.
- Tender documents are available on payment of NIS 351 (including VAT) not refundable, at the address hereinafter.

The Ports and Railways Authority - Head Office
Purchase Division
47 Petach Tivah Road, 11th floor, Room 1103, Israel.
Tel. 972-3-6657064, Fax. 972-3-6616027

A technical inspection of the cranes can be done after purchasing the tender documents.

- Proposals must be submitted no later than Sept. 8, 1996 at the address above.
- The P.R.A. is not obligated to accept the most expensive proposal or any other proposal.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to conduct negotiations with those bidders that were found to be suitable.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to reach agreements with more than one bidder, and/or not to sell all the cranes.

| | |
|---|---|
| PRIME מטריים פריים Foreign Residents | TARGET מטריים טארט Foreign Residents |
| Date: 23.7.96 | Date: 23.7.96 |
| Purchase Price: 109.31 | Purchase Price: 145.50 |
| Redemption Price: 107.87 | Redemption Price: 143.39 |
| למכירה בלבד | למכירה בלבד |

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST INTERNATIONAL EDITION

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
TENDER NO. 11/96
CONVERSION OF MASTER-PLANS TO THE "AGAM" SYSTEM
Correction

- Following our announcement of July 18, 1996, we would like to clarify and correct the following:
 - The project entails the conversion, digitally and by scanning, of outlines of national master-plans, regional master-plans, plans of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee etc., as well as various written and numerical data.
 - Paragraph 1.2 of the original announcement should read: "The supplier's team must include at least five employees employed permanently in data conversion."

A meeting of suppliers will be held on August 14, 1996, at 1 p.m., in the conference room in the Ministry of the Interior, the Kiryat, Jerusalem.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

JOHN DEB TELEBANK
DIAL 03-6129111 FROM 9 AM TO 11 PM

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6.96)

| Currency (deposit for) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. dollar (\$200,000) | 4.825 | 4.875 | 5.575 |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.250 |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 1.875 | 1.875 | 2.925 |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.600 |
| Yen (10 million yen) | - | - | - |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.7.96)

| CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS | CHECKS AND BANKNOTES | | Rep. Rates* |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------|
| | Buy | Sell | |
| Currency basket | 3.5599 | 3.5990 | 3.5804 |
| U.S. dollar | 3.1492 | 3.1903 | 3.1620 |
| German mark | 2.1112 | 2.1693 | 2.1271 |
| Pound sterling | 4.8833 | 4.9621 | 4.9174 |
| French franc | 0.6240 | 0.6341 | 0.6100 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 2.9117 | 2.9587 | 2.9250 |
| Dutch florin | 1.8809 | 1.9119 | 1.8954 |
| Swiss franc | 2.9933 | 2.9322 | 2.9640 |
| Swedish krona | 0.4796 | 0.4874 | 0.4826 |
| Norwegian krona | 0.4912 | 0.4992 | 0.4929 |
| Danish krona | 0.5478 | 0.5585 | 0.5486 |
| Finland mark | 0.5846 | 0.5958 | 0.5916 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.2896 | 2.3296 | 2.3096 |
| Australian dollar | 2.4789 | 2.5193 | 2.4996 |
| S. African rand | 0.7104 | 0.7218 | 0.7150 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 1.9242 | 1.9508 | 1.9319 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.5983 | 2.6477 | 2.6222 |
| Italian lire (1000) | 2.0771 | 2.1107 | 2.0922 |
| Japanese Yen | 4.5700 | 4.6700 | 4.6200 |
| Egyptian pound | 0.8900 | 0.8700 | 0.8800 |
| ECU | 3.9800 | 4.0442 | 4.0122 |
| Irish punt | 5.0707 | 5.1625 | 5.1164 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.4957 | 2.5360 | 2.5127 |

*These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Handwritten text in Hebrew: *המסחר הוא המלך*

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table showing various market indices and their changes.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and others.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies and their prices.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main Tel Aviv Stocks table with columns for Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading, listing various stocks and their prices.

TASE expected to stabilize by expected interest cut

THE stock market is likely to stabilize in the days ahead as the Bank of Israel is expected to reduce interest rates 0.5 percentage points, a reduction labeled "cosmetic" by analysts.

FTSE falls to near record low for '96

LONDON (Reuters) - Reversed gloominess over Wall Street sent shares sharply lower, sending the FTSE 100 index down to near its lowest level of the year.

Dow gains, other NY indexes fall

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks averted another bruising session, but a jump in interest rates short-circuited an afternoon rebound, leaving most major indexes with a loss yesterday.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates table showing rates for Sterling, Yen, SF, and FF.

INFLATION MARKETS

Inflation markets table showing dollar crossrates and other market data.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

INFLATION MARKETS

Inflation markets table showing US commodities and London commodities.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and others.

Amnesty: Israel deliberately shelled Kana

LONDON (AP) - Israeli forces deliberately attacked a UN compound in southern Lebanon and killed civilians in violation of the rules of war during Operation Grapes of Wrath in April. Amnesty International said in a report released yesterday.

A report by the UN in May said the shelling of the compound at Kana, which killed 91 refugees, was "unlikely" to have been an accident.

Israel says the shelling was provoked by fire from nearby Hizbullah positions. Israeli officials said troops inaccurately measured the distance between the base and the Hizbullah position, and that only a few shells landed on the base.

In an interview with The Associated Press this week, former prime minister Shimon Peres insisted that the shelling was accidental.

"We didn't know that these UN positions became a camp of refugees," he said. "Nothing was done intentionally."

Amnesty International, however, said that "the available information indicates that the IDF intentionally attacked the UN compound. The horrific nature of the events at Kana has only been made worse by the Israeli government's refusal to own up to its responsibility," organization said.

"Even if it was a mistake - and Israel has failed to show that it was - the IDF would still bear responsibility for taking the risk to launch an attack so close to the UN compound, killing so many civilians."

Amnesty International's report also accused Hizbullah of attacking civilians in breach of international law.

11 MKs fight for discharged soldiers' rights

LIAT COLLINS

ELEVEN MKs from nine parties joined together yesterday to create a lobby opposed to cutting the grants given to demobilized soldiers.

Ra'anun Cohen (Labor), who initiated the Demobilized Soldiers Law which passed in April 1994, said the lobby is prepared to meet the government halfway on its proposed revisions to the law. He said the lobby would accept the possible repeal of the clause allowing soldiers to use the grant for rent - a clause which has been misused by demobilized soldiers who faked rental contracts - but that it would not allow any harm to the amount granted for other purposes: pre-academic studies, vocational training, or purchasing an apartment.

Cohen said the compromise is conditional on the government

announcing this will be the last cut to the law's provisions.

"We are worried that the government is working according to the salami system. First it will make one cut, then another, then another, until the law is completely scrapped," he said.

The MKs who supported Cohen are Maxim Levy (Gesher), Rehavam Ze'evi (Moleket), Moshe Shahal (Labor), Shlomo Benizri (Shas), Anat Maor (Meretz), Shaul Yahalom and Avraham Stern (National Religious Party), Eliezer Zandberg (Tomet), Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), and Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism). Others are expected to join the initiative before the bill comes up for discussion in the plenum, probably in October, after the summer recess.



A new soldier receives his shots at the induction center in Tel Hashomer yesterday. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

18% of eligible recruits not drafted

IDF: Israelis residing abroad will not be forced back to serve

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

NEARLY one in five Israelis eligible for conscription is not drafted, Col. Avi Zamir, the officer in charge of conscription, said yesterday.

He said about 18 percent of those called up never get inducted. A third are released on medical grounds, another third because they are yeshiva students, and the rest because they are abroad or found to be unsuitable, he said.

Zamir said Israelis residing abroad are obligated in today's society.

The induction center has introduced refinements drastically shortening the time spent at the draft office by nearly 60 percent. Air conditioners have been installed and waiting lines virtually eliminated with the help of computers, which direct those summoned to the draft directly to free stations.

"We want the individual to understand he is coming to a network which wants him and which projects confidence," Zamir said.

As long as they are abroad, there is no point in bringing them to Israel," Zamir said.

He spoke as the IDF began its annual August draft into combat field units.

Not serving in the IDF no longer bears the stigma it once did, and recent polls indicate the value of serving in the army has declined

Sarid complains about lack of justice in Bus 300 affair

LIAT COLLINS

FOLLOWING Ehud Yatom's announcement that he killed the two terrorists captured during the Bus 300 affair in 1984, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said he could not understand how Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai could sit in the same government as Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, "given that Ne'eman

cooked up the pardons for the [General Security Service agents] who had been prepared to frame Mordechai to save themselves."

Sarid had petitioned the High Court against the pardons at the time.

"The pardoned men who tried to

frame Mordechai nearly succeeded and they still have not paid for killing the terrorists or what they did to Mordechai," Sarid said.

Sarid also said yesterday that he expects Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to apologize to his predecessor Shimon Peres "for the character assassination carried out against Peres because of the previous government's contacts with Yasser Arafat." Sarid said the handshake between Foreign Minister David Levy and Arafat was just a prelude to the handshake between Netanyahu and Arafat "which will take place shortly."

Postal Authority denies dumping Likud election material

JUDY SIEGEL

POSTAL Authority director-general Ran Levin yesterday categorically denied claims by a *Ma'ariv* investigative reporter that the postal service wrongly dumped 70 sacks of Likud election propaganda material in its "dead-letter" warehouse in Jerusalem instead of delivering pamphlets to voters around the country at the end of May.

The charges were published on the newspaper's front page yesterday in an article by Ronel Fisher, who quoted anonymous senior officials in the authority as saying: "The order was given from high up."

Communications Minister Limor Livnat asked a committee to investigate the charges yesterday. The committee will consist of ministry legal adviser Menahem Ohali, postal supervisor Yigal Levy and deputy director of the supervision branch, Zvi Yundler.

Levin, who though appointed by Livnat's predecessor Shulamit Aloni is a non-political professional, said the charges were nonsense, "and indications that someone with political motivations is out to get the Postal Authority and Ran Levin."

He explained that the Likud sent out 3.8 million pieces of election propaganda through the mail - all of it unaddressed but meant to be inserted in post office boxes of residents throughout the country. In many cases, he said, "more pamphlets were sent to a town than there were residents, so postal deliverers returned the surplus to Jerusalem in big bags marked 'dead-letter warehouse.'"

These bags, which were sent to the warehouse after the elections, included more Labor

Party material than Likud, as well as propaganda from other parties, he said. The 70 bags of returned Likud material constituted "only four percent of the total they mailed," the director-general added.

"In February, months before the election, I sent out written instructions to senior postal workers that the distribution of propaganda for the parties must be carried out properly and carefully," he said. "The fact that there was a surplus is not our fault. I'm sure the article will be disproved and that the truth will emerge."

Levin added that he had invited Fisher to interview any postal officials he wished, but that the reporter "said this was not necessary and promised the article would not appear. The next day, the article was put on the front page."

Labor requesting plenum debate on election fraud

LIAT COLLINS

THE election results are still being disputed by Labor.

Yesterday Labor faction chairman Ra'anun Cohen sent a letter to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon asking that a speaker inquiry into fraud at the polls be raised in the plenum as an urgent motion to the agenda.

Cohen said recent findings by the press as well as his own investigations point to serious cases of fraud, particularly in the haredi sector. He said the head of the Central Elections Committee for the 14th Knesset, Justice Theodor Orr, had forwarded to the police complaints of people who were apparently abroad on election day but whose names had been marked off on the voters' lists and other serious cases of suspected election fraud.

Coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan said in response: "The Labor Party is refusing to

accept the election results. The courts and the Central Election Committees have several times rejected the claims of alleged election fraud." He suggested Labor stop "dealing with rubbish and start acting as an opposition."

"In recent days, new information indicates widespread premeditated and systematic fraud amounting to hundreds of thousands of votes," Cohen said. "This material has been forwarded to the police who are investigating but it is just the tip of the iceberg of election fraud on a scale never seen before in Israel."

He said he gets scores of phone calls a week from people who imply an organized fraud.

"The findings are incredible in their scope and seriousness and the Knesset as a parliamentary body is responsible for checking what happened on election day," Cohen said.

Iranian hijacker appeals sentence

EVELYN GORDON

REZA Jabari, the Iranian flight attendant who hijacked a plane to Israel last September, appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday against his eight-year prison sentence.

Jabari was convicted of hijacking by the Beersheba District Court two weeks ago. In the appeal, a lawyer Avigdor Feldman argued that the sentence is unfairly long since everyone, including the prosecutor and the judges, agreed that Jabari is not a terrorist.

Jabari hijacked the plane in an effort to escape from Iran, rather than an attempt to commit political blackmail, Feldman noted. He made no attempt to injure anyone on the plane. Feldman continued, the one shot Jabari fired was into a thick wall, which he knew would prevent the bullet from hurting anyone.

When the plane landed in Israel, he put down his pistol, waved his shirt as a white flag, and gave himself up to the first soldier he saw, Feldman added.

"The accused is not a terrorist, and the goal of the hijacking was not to extort the release of prisoners; his only goal was to flee Iran," Feldman quoted the prosecutor as saying during the trial.

Aslan murder suspects acquitted

REUVEN "Banjo" Adajshvili and Eli Cohen, accused of murdering underworld kingpin Yehzekel Aslan, were acquitted by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Aslan was shot to death outside a Tel Aviv restaurant in 1993, but the weapon and the assassin's escape car were never found. Last month, his widow Shoshana was murdered in front of her Herzliya Pithah home.

Mordechai helps move caravans

THE police prevented Amman - Gush Eilat's settlement division - from moving six caravans from the Nablus area to Gush Etzion yesterday, until Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai personally intervened, Amman head Ze'ev Hever said.

Police spokesman Boaz Goldberg OC Central Command forbids caravans to be moved without its okay. Evelyn Gordon

WEATHER

Jerusalem 18-27
Tel Aviv 24-29
Haifa 22-29
Beersheba 20-31
Golan 17-27
Tiberias 23-36
Ashdod 21-32
Samaria 18-27
Dead Sea 20-38
Eilat 25-36

Forecast: No change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

| | LOW | HIGH | |
|----------------|-----|------|---------------|
| Australian | 15 | 25 | cloudy |
| Bahia | 18 | 28 | clear |
| Buenos Aires | 12 | 18 | clear |
| Calcutta | 25 | 32 | partly cloudy |
| Chicago | 18 | 27 | cloudy |
| Copenhagen | 15 | 22 | rain |
| Hankow | 18 | 28 | clear |
| Hong Kong | 25 | 32 | clear |
| London | 15 | 22 | cloudy |
| Lyons | 18 | 25 | clear |
| Los Angeles | 18 | 25 | clear |
| Madrid | 15 | 22 | clear |
| Moscow | 18 | 25 | cloudy |
| New York | 18 | 25 | cloudy |
| Paris | 15 | 22 | cloudy |
| Philadelphia | 18 | 25 | cloudy |
| Rio de Janeiro | 18 | 25 | clear |
| Sydney | 18 | 25 | clear |

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Court upholds prayer ban on Temple Mount

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the right of police to forbid Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount, rejecting the Temple Mount Faithful's request to hold a large prayer rally at the site today, Tisha Be'av.

The Temple Mount Faithful are expected to come to the site this morning and demand to be allowed inside, despite the court's ruling, as the group has in the past. Police sources said manpower will be beefed up at the entrances to the mount to prevent them from entering.

Hai Vekayam, another group pushing for a change in the policy forbidding Jewish worship on the Temple Mount, has also called on its supporters to try enter the mount today.

Hai Vekayam has been pushing the new government to reverse the policy. Government leaders have indicated they support permitting Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount, although they are unwilling for the present to change the old policy, according to group leader Yehuda Etzion.

Government sources confirmed that a change of policy is under consideration. Jewish prayer on the mount has long been forbidden by the authorities, on grounds it would incite unrest at the spot, also holy to Moslems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two policemen charged for beating driver
Two policemen were yesterday charged in the Haifa Magistrate's Court with beating and causing injury to a driver. Zacharia Seidoff, 36, of Pardes Hanna and Eli Minkowitz, 30, of Havatzelet Hasharon, were charged with breaking the driver's nose during a heated exchange. The policemen, the charge sheet said, had stopped the driver who was traveling too slowly and holding up traffic. When he objected, they allegedly banged his head and caused the injury, then threw him into a patrol car and beat him again on the way to the police station. *Tim*

Lawyer suspected of fraud freed on bail
Attorney Zion Amir, suspected of providing fraudulent medical documents to the Supreme Court, which resulted in a significant reduction in his client's sentence, was released on bail by Nazareth Magistrate's Court yesterday. The court said it found nothing in the police investigation which indicated the defendant committed a crime. Amir's lawyer said there was absolutely no connection between his client and the three doctors arrested for providing the fraudulent documents. *Tim*

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